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Net migration to the UK was 237,000 in 2007

A range of statistics relating to population and migration are released today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Home Office, the Department for Work and Pensions and the General Register Office for Scotland. These include International Migration estimates for the UK during 2007, a range of migration-related administrative data and an analysis of earnings by country of birth. The full list of statistics is given at Annex A.

International migration estimates for 2007

Net migration, the difference between immigration and emigration, was 237,000, up 46,000 on 2006 as a result of emigration falling more than immigration. An estimated 340,000 people left the UK for twelve months or more in 2007, down from 400,000 in 2006. The estimated number of people arriving to live in the UK for twelve months or more was 577,000 in 2007, compared with 591,000 in 2006. For more information on this release go to:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdudir/tim1108.pdf>

Migration-related administrative data for 2007/08

Home Office release today National Statistics on control of immigration including applications for asylum and grants of settlement, which give a summary analysis for July to September 2008. They show that:

- The number of asylum applications, excluding dependants, was 12 per cent higher in Q3 2008 (6,620) compared with Q3 2007 (5,885)
- In the 12 months to the end of September 2008 there were 25,800 applications for asylum, excluding dependants. This was a 15 per cent increase from 22,360 in the same period to the end of September 2007, although lower than the levels seen in the same period 1997-98 to 2004-05.

- In Q3 2008, 17,525 persons were removed, including voluntary departures, from the UK, 9 per cent higher than Q3 2007 (16,145). This includes a fall of 10 per cent to 3,120 for asylum removals and voluntary departures (including dependants) and an increase of 14 per cent to 14,405 for non asylum removals and voluntary departures
- The number of persons granted settlement in the United Kingdom, excluding EEA nationals in the 12 months ending September 2008 was 147,235. Employment-related grants numbered 58,525 a return to the level in 2005; asylum related grants numbered 3,690 continuing the fall from the peak of 67,810 in 2005; family formation and reunion grants numbered 51,740 compared to 59,800 in 2006. [see background note 4]

These figures relate only to those people who are subject to immigration control and they do not cover, for example, moves by European Economic Area citizens.

Home Office statistics from the **Workers Registration Scheme (WRS)** are also released today. These only cover A8 nationals and show a fall in the number of initial applications to the WRS. In total there were 38,000 initial applications to the WRS in Quarter 3 (Q3) 2008, compared to 59,000 in Q3 2007 and 65,000 in Q3 2006. (Figures from the WRS are based on management information and are not classified as National Statistics)

For more detail on Home Office statistics released today go to:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/stats-release.html

www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/

Latest figures released by the DWP show that in the quarter April to June 2008, 176 thousand National Insurance numbers (NINOs) were allocated to adult overseas nationals entering the UK. In the twelve months to June 2008, this represents a 0.6% increase in NINOs allocated to adult overseas nationals compared to the year to June 2007.

For more detail on the statistics released today by DWP go to:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Earnings by country of birth from Labour Force Survey

Full-time employees in the UK, born in the eight countries that joined the European Union in 2004 had median weekly earnings of £290 in July to September 2008. This was the lowest estimate compared with the other country groups analysed by the Office for National Statistics. For the same quarter, the weekly earnings estimate for full-time employees who were born in the UK was £438.

Between 1998 and 2005 full-time median earnings for people born outside the UK were higher than those born in the UK. From 2006 to date non-UK born full-time earnings have been lower than UK born full-time earnings. The analysis shows that the lower earnings of migrants from the accession countries contributed to this change.

For more information on this release go to:

www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=15137

In addition ONS is releasing reports on the feasibility of producing local area short-term migration estimates, findings of the subnational population projections consultation on projection variants and an update on the Improving Migration and Population Statistics project. These reports are available at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/downloads/STM_Local_Estimation.pdf

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=997

www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/downloads/msiwpnov.pdf

A full list of the statistics released today are shown in Annex A.

Annex A

Statistics released today

Office for National Statistics

1. International Migration First Release calendar year 2007
www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=15053
2. Employment of Foreign Workers: Focus on Earnings
www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=15137
3. A feasibility report on local area short-term immigration estimates
www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/downloads/STM_Local_Estimation.pdf
4. Migration Statistics Improvement Work Programme
November 2008 Progress Report
www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/downloads/msiwpnov.pdf
5. Report on subnational population projections consultation on projection variants
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=997
6. Inter-regional migration movements within the UK. Year to March 2008
www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=10191
7. Population estimates by Nationality and Country of Birth April 2007 to March 2008
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15147
8. Quarterly population estimates for English GORs and Wales, Q3 2008
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=13523
9. Mid-2007 Lower Layer Super Output Area & Middle Layer Super Output Area population estimates
www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14357
10. Mid-2007 Population Estimates by Marital Status
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15107

Home Office

11. Control of Immigration, quarterly statistical summary, Q3 2008

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/stats-release.html

12. Accession Monitoring Report to Sep 2008 (A8), UK
www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report/
13. Bulgarian & Romanian (A2) Accession Statistics, Q3 2008, UK
www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/bulgarianromanian/

Department for Work and Pensions

14. National Insurance Number allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, year to June 2008
www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

General Register Office for Scotland

15. Centenarians in Scotland 2002-2007
www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/population/population-estimates-for-scottish-centenarians/centenarians-in-scotland/index.html

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
2. The eight EU Accession countries (A8) are the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. The twelve EU Accession countries are the A8 countries plus Malta and Cyprus and the two new member states, Bulgaria and Romania admitted to the EU in January 2007.
3. The source of DWP statistics on adult overseas nationals entering the UK allocated a National Insurance Numbers (NINo) is the HM Revenue and Customs National Insurance Recording System (NIRS). The figures are based on recorded registration dates on NIRS, i.e. after the NINo application and allocation process has been completed. This may be a number of weeks or months after arriving in the UK.

The figures encompass adult overseas nationals allocated a NINo for whatever reason i.e. benefit/tax credit recipients as well as workers (including self-employed). All adult overseas nationals allocated a NINo are included regardless of their length of stay in the UK.

The definition of migrants – adult overseas nationals allocated a NINo – differs from other published statistics in the area, such as ONS International Migration statistics derived from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) and statistics on foreign workers derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The various definitions of migrants mean the data sources may have different numbers of migrants for the same time period.

4. The Home Office statistics relate to the persons who are subject to immigration control under Immigration Acts (that is, to persons who do not have the right of abode in the UK) and are produced mainly as a by-product of the process of immigration control. British citizens, those Commonwealth citizens who also have the right of abode, together with other European Economic Area (EEA) nationals are not subject to immigration control and may freely enter and leave the UK. The UK Border Agency, which is responsible for immigration control, regulates the entry and refusal of entry of passengers into the UK, the conditions of stay in the UK, the variation of such conditions following entry, settlement and the deportation or removal of persons.

It is not possible for the UK Borders Agency to provide information on how many persons have left the country as they do not count everyone into and out of the UK.

5. Home Office publish statistics about nationals of the A8 countries who wish to take up employment in the UK for a period of at least one month and register with the Workers Registration Scheme (WRS). The data are based on Management Information (not National Statistics) collected via the WRS and monitoring claims for benefits, applications for tax credits, housing and homelessness assistance.
6. The number of applicants to the WRS does not represent a measurement of net migration to the UK - it is a gross figure for the number of workers applying to the WRS.
7. Changes in immigration rules, enlargement of the EU and various UKBA programmes affect comparisons of settlement over recent time periods, including:
 - In the employment-related categories, grants were affected in 2006 and 2007 by a change in the qualifying period from 4 to 5 years delaying grants that would otherwise have occurred earlier.

- Asylum-related grants of settlement were at a high level between 2004 and 2006 due to the Family ILR exercise and due to grants to persons granted exceptional leave to remain 4 years earlier.
 - Family formation and reunion grants were affected in 2005 by a change in the qualifying period for settlement delaying grants that would otherwise have occurred earlier.
8. The DWP and Home Office figures are based on administrative data. They are not direct measures of immigration and do not conform to the UN definition of an international migrant. However they provide an insight into migration trends and are available more quickly than the official ONS estimates.